NYT Dec. 11, 1977

Back to Basics And Lee Oswald

The assassination buffs have insisted for 14 years that Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone in killing John F. Kennedy. Film analysis, geometry, close reasoning and messages from the beyond have been used to support theories that the Central Intelligence Agency was involved. Or the Russians, or Texas millionaires, or the Watergate burglars, or Fidel Castro.

Last week the Federal Bureau of Investigation released the first half of an 80,000-page file on its assassination inquiry, and basically nothing changed.

Which is to say that although the documents do not contradict the Warren Commission's finding that Oswald was the sole assassin, they do confirm that J. Edgar Hoover himself was troubled by the possibility of Cuban connection.

The late bureau chief concluded within hours after the shooting in Dallas that Oswald was the killer, the files show. But later, his agents turned up letters written to Oswald from Cuba, hinting at conspiracy and reward.

The letters may have been the work of hoaxers. One, for example, was dated before the assassination but postmarked six days after it. Because the bureau had no agents in Cuba there was no way to check the letter, so Mr. Hoover cautioned against jumping to the conclusion that Oswald was "the only man" involved in the plot.